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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Mayor Celebrates West Valley City's Top Ten Great Stories of 2011

West Valley City – In his December Video Report, West Valley City Mayor Mike Winder highlighted what he feels were the top ten great stories in Utah's second largest city in 2011:

**10- City ordinance violations remain low:** In 2008, 43 percent of properties in West Valley City were significantly out of compliance with one or more codes; by comparison, in other communities throughout the Salt Lake valley, the average rate of noncompliance was about 20 percent. Inoperable vehicles, improper parking surfaces, landscaping issues, outside storage and solid waste were the main violations. A study done in September of this year showed the rate of noncompliance in West Valley City has been reduced to 12 percent.

**9- English Language Initiative launched:** The 2010 Census indicated that 31 percent of West Valley City residents speak a language other than English in their home. In response, the West Valley City Council introduced an initiative encouraging all West Valley City residents to learn and speak English, and encouraged all businesses and housing providers to use English in signs, advertisements, promotions and menus.

**8- City going green:** In July, West Valley City announced a partnership with Waste Management to provide sanitation services. Waste Management will service the City with a fleet of 19 Compressed Natural gas (CNG) trucks, which can reduce carbon monoxide emissions by 80 percent. Additional green initiatives in West Valley City include upgrading facilities to use energy efficient lighting and HVAC controls installing LED street lights and employing a fleet of 43 hybrid and 100 flex fuel vehicles.

**7- Valley Fair Mall continues redevelopment:** Valley Fair Mall continues to flourish with new stores and developments announced regularly. The Olive Garden restaurant has been honored as the leading location among the chain's 750 locations for the second consecutive year; Winger's at Valley Fair Mall is the restaurant's leading franchise; and Ross at Valley Fair Mall is the retailer's top-performing location in Utah. To ease entry into the mall, a collector-distributor road will open this month, providing easier access to the mall from I-215 and 3500 South.

**6- Bangerter Highway interchanges improve traffic flow:** Continuous Flow Intersections are now open on Bangerter Highway at 3100 South, 3500 South and 4100 South, easing east-west congestion and increasing traffic throughput by as much as 35 percent.

**5- New Granger High rises from the ground:** Granger High construction continues with an expected completion date in 2013. The new school will be the newest and largest in the state, capable of accommodating 2,600 students.

**4- Target announced for 5600 West:** A 135,300 square foot Target is under construction at 2550 South 5600 West and is expected to open in July 2012. Prior to the economic downturn, the retailer opened more than 100 new stores every year; West Valley City is fortunate to be one of the retailer's ten new locations announced in 2011.

**3- Larry Miller Megaplex coming to Valley Fair Mall:** A seventh state-of-the art Megaplex Theatres location is in development at Valley Fair Mall. Construction on the new complex will begin in January 2012 and will be completed by December 2012. The new location will replace the vacant anchor on the east side of the mall and will feature 15 digital auditoriums, including a six-story 2D/3D digital IMAX screen.

**2- West Valley TRAX line opens:** The Utah Transit Authority opened the TRAX Green Line, servicing four stops in West Valley City. The Green Line carries an estimated 5,000 passengers per day.

**1- Fairbourne Station unveiled as future city center:** Economic development efforts in the heart of West Valley City are not limited to Valley Fair Mall. Fairbourne Station, a major redevelopment effort encompassing the area between 3500 South and 3650 South and 2700 West and 3200 West, is taking shape as construction continues on a four-acre park and a Hilton Embassy Suites Hotel.

The Mayor's Video Report may be viewed at [www.wvc-ut.gov/topten2011](http://www.wvc-ut.gov/topten2011).

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